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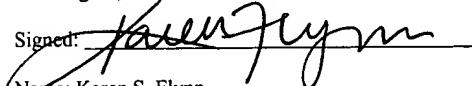
FEB - 5 2002

2874  
PATENT

TC 2000 MAIL 2001

Applicant: Veng  
Serial No.: 09/971,875  
Filed: October 4, 2001  
For: METHODS AND DEVICES FOR  
REDUCING SPLICE LOSS IN AN  
OPTICAL TRANSMISSION LINE  
Examiner: Not Assigned  
Group: 2874

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date set forth below:

Signed: 

Name: Karen S. Flynn

Date: November 8, 2001

Chapel Hill, North Carolina  
November 8, 2001

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER § 197(a)

Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before a first Official Action has been mailed in this case.

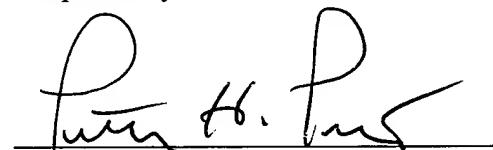
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, applicant's attorney wishes to bring to the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office the following items listed on the accompanying Forms PTO/SB/08A and PTO/SB/08B. These items were listed in a European Search Report dated October 23, 2001. A copy of this Search Report is also enclosed.

ITEMS

1. US 5,226,995 A issued July 13, 1993;
2. US 5,933,561 A issued August 3, 1999;
3. EP 0 505 044 A2 published September 23, 1992;
4. EP 0 576 266 A2 published December 29, 1993;
5. EP 0 690 318 A1 published January 2, 1996;
6. JP 08190030 published July 23, 1996;
7. Tam, H.Y., "Simple Fusion Splicing Technique for Reducing Splicing Loss Between Standard Singlemode Fibres and Erbium-Doped Fibre," *Electronics Letters*, IEE Stevenage, GB, vol. 27, no. 17, August 15, 1999, pages 1597-1599, XP000253922;
8. B. Edvold and L. Grüner-Nielsen, "New Technique for Reducing the Splice Loss to Dispersion Compensating Fiber," *22<sup>nd</sup> European Conference on Optical Communication - ECOC '96*, 1996, XP001021765;
9. L. Grüner-Nielsen et al., "New Dispersion 1-7 Compensating Fibres for Simultaneous Compensation of Dispersion and Dispersion Slope of Non-Zero Dispersion Shifted Fibres in the C or L Band," *Optical Fiber Communication Conference*, Baltimore, MD, USA, March 7-10, 2000, pages 101-103, XP001021884; and
10. M.J. Holmes, F.P. Payne, D.M. Spirit, "Matching Fibres for Low Loss Coupling into Fibre Amplifiers," *Electronics Letters*, vol. 26, no. 25, December 6, 1990, pages 2102-2104, XP002179091.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made nor shall it be construed as an admission that the information cited is considered to be material to patentability, nor shall it be construed that no other material information exists.

Respectfully submitted,



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